

From: Killraven
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/31/01 5:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm posting this in response to a Microsoft FINFlash e-mail asking people to give their opinions to the DOJ in regards to the proposed Antitrust settlement.

My opinion is that the current proposed settlement would make the money spent on the investigation a bigger waste than that spent on the Whitewater investigation.

For a token penalty (less than 10% of MS's petty cash!) Microsoft would be handed a huge victory in being able to strengthen their Operating System monopoly in the one area that they have largely been kept out of, the Public Education System.

Years back, prior to Windows 95, the PC public had a choice of at least three different Operating Systems (MS-DOS, PC DOS, and Novell DOS (aka, DR DOS)), all of which would adequately run the Windows 3x environment. Now we are restricted to Microsoft only. This has certainly stifled innovation in the technical arena, as history shows that Microsoft has almost always been a copier or purchaser of innovation. The existence of alternative OS's (Linux, Be and various Mac flavors) is simply not adequate as the majority of the worlds computer programs are designed for the various flavors of Windows, from business applications to entertainment.

In my opinion, the nine states that did not readily accept Microsoft's tainted bait have an acceptable solution in forcing Microsoft to offer a stripped down version of Windows that will allow users to build their OS with only the tools they desire or require.

Also, in my opinion, the best overall solution would be to require Microsoft to license the portions of Windows code that would allow competitors to build their own Operating Systems that would be completely Windows-x compatible so that consumers would once again truly have freedom of choice. Competition is the true mother of innovation, and innovation helps everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Hoerner
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USA

